

WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM
Pennsylvania Ranking Criteria

Form WRP-PA-1A
(12-96)

Enrollee _____

Business ID _____

County _____

Tract No. _____
(if applicable)

No Easement

ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA

I. Proximity to Riparian Area

Totals

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. Adjoining | 5 |
| 2. \leq 500 feet | 3 |

Riparian Area Multiplier – Use only if the WRP Agreement includes the riparian area.

-- points ____ X 2 =

II. Size of Area Included in Agreement (Contiguous)
(round to whole acre)

- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| 1. \geq 15 acres | 10 |
| 2. 10-14 acres | 6 |
| 3. 5-9 acres | 4 |
| 4. 2-4 acres | 2 |

Add 1 point for every acre over 15 acres.

-- maximum is 1 additional points + ____

III. Hydrology

A. Hydric Soil Area to be Restored

(% of hydric soil acreage that will have hydrology restored)

- | | |
|------------|----|
| 1. 80-100% | 10 |
| 2. 60-79 % | 6 |
| 3. 40-59% | 2 |

CONSIDER ONLY HYDRIC SOILS WITHIN AGREEMENT AREA

Include any recent wetland restoration, but not existing natural wetlands.

B. Planned Water Depth		<u>Totals</u>
$\geq 60\%$ of Water Surface Area <1 ft.	10	
$\geq 40\%$ of Water Surface Area <1 ft.	6	
$> 25\%$ & $<40\%$ of Water Surface Area ≥ 3 ft.	4	
$\geq 40\%$ of Water Surface Area ≥ 3 ft.	2	_____
PROJECTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED 50% >3 FT.		

C. Saturated Soils Above Water Line Elevation		
(Surface Area <1 ft. elev. above planned permanent water line, as % of Permanent Pool Area)		
$\geq 200\%$ (2:1)	10	
$\geq 100\%$ (1:1)	6	
$\geq 50\%$ (0.5:1)		_____

D. Source of Hydrology		
Perennial Flow		
$< 25\%$ of water from perennial flow	6	
$\geq 25\%$ & $\leq 50\%$ of water from perenn. flow	4	
$> 50\%$ of water from perennial flow	2	
Surface Water Multiplier		
$< 10:1$ Watershed Area to Pool Area		
-- points ____ x 3	=	
$\geq 10:1$ Watershed Area to Pool Area		
-- points ____ x 1	=	
$\geq 20:1$ Watershed Area to Pool Area		
-- points ____ x 0.5	=	_____

IV. Buffer Area Included in Agreement	
(upland or existing natural wetland)	
1. Surrounds hydric soil area (95-100%)	5
2. 75-94% of hydric soil perimeter	4
3. 50-74% of hydric soil perimeter	3
4. 25-49% of hydric soil perimeter	2
CONSIDER ONLY HYDRIC SOIL PERIMETERS WITHIN EASEMENT	

Buffer Width (average) Multiplier	
100 feet or more	-- points ____ X 3 =
50 feet to 99 feet	-- points ____ X 2 = _____

V.	Vegetated Wetlands Expected in 10 years		
	≥ 20% forested wetland (tree species)	5	
	≥ 20% shrub wetlands	5	
	< 20% open water Note: Less than	5	
	Add 5 points for each that applies		_____

ECONOMIC CRITERIA

VI.	Restoration Cost		<u>Totals</u>
	(divide restoration cost by <u>total</u> agreement area)		
	1. Less than \$100 per acre	10	
	2. \$100-249 per acre	6	
	3. \$249-499 per acre	4	
	4. \$500-750 per acre	2	_____
	PROJECTS SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$1000 PER ACRE		

VII.	Landowner Share of Restoration Cost		
	(including other Non-Federal Sources)		
	1. ≥ 50%	10	
	2. ≥ 40%	6	
	3. ≥ 35%	2	_____

Total Score _____
(Maximum is 129 points)

OTHER CRITERIA (check off)

- Documentation must be attached
- ___ Endangered Species
- ___ Public Access to be Allowed
- ___ _____

SIGNATURES _____

District Conservationist

FWS (or representative)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR WRP

RANKING CRITERIA

(Form WRP-PA-1A, dated 12-96)

Enrollee: The person or corporation who controls the land.

Business ID: Business ID in FOCS.

Tract No.: Only if FSA already has assigned a tract number. Persons enrolled in WRP will be required to comply with FOOD Security Act requirements.

- I. Proximity to riparian Area: Measure from the edge of the proposed WRP agreement boundary nearest to the stream to the edge of the natural riparian vegetation, or the edge of the stream if the riparian area is in agricultural use (pasture or crop;and).

Multiplier: Explained on ranking form.

Maximum score – 20 points

- II. Size of Area Included in Agreement (Contiguous) : It is assumed there is only one agreement area per tract (including buffers and riparian areas). If there are more than one, complete only one form per tract – list the actual acreage for each agreement area in the margin and do not assign points for this criteria. The State Technical Committee will assign points.

Maximum score – 20 points

III. Hydrology

- A. Hydric Soil Area to be Restored: Evaluate only hydric soils within the proposed agreement. Estimate the percentage of the hydric soil acreage that has hydrology or will have hydrology restored.

Maximum score – 10 points

- B. Planned Water Depth: When wetland restoration will include open water, estimate the percent of the proposed pool surface area that will be more than three feet deep and the percent that will be less than one foot deep. NOTE: Projects that will only restore saturated soil condition (no open water)will receive the maximum score.

Maximum score –10

- C. Saturated Soils Above Water Line Elevation: Projects that are on flatter slopes with fine textured soils will have a larger fringe of saturated soils. Estimate the land area that will be between the water's edge and up to one foot in elevation above the proposed pool surface area (percent or ratio).

Maximum score – 10

- D. Source of Hydrology : Fluctuating hydrology provides more ecological diversity. Therefore, wetlands dominated by perennial (365 days a year) springs or streams, and/ or large contributing watersheds (Multiplier) will be scores lower.

Maximum – 18

- IV. Buffer Included in Agreement: Assign points only if uplands, existing wetlands, or riparian areas are included in addition to the degraded (or recently restored) hydric soils that make the site eligible for WRP. Consider only the perimeters of hydric soil areas that are within the proposed agreement (ignore any portion of hydric soil area that extends beyond the proposed agreement). When there are more than one hydric soil areas within the agreement, estimate the overall average perimeter that has a buffer.

Multiplier : Estimate the overall average width of the buffer area. Do not use the multiplier if the average is less than 50 feet.

Maximum score – 15 points

- IV. Vegetated Wetlands Expected in 10 years: These are bonus points to be assigned if the landowner is interested in managing for these habitats and the NRCS and FWS personnel are confident trees and/or shrubs will become established. Also, sites with a minimum of open water (> 3 ft. deep) are more likely to develop woody habitat.

Maximum score – 15 points

- V. Restoration Cost: Use the total estimated restoration cost. Divide this cost by entire proposed agreement acreage.

Maximum score – 10 points

- VI. Landowner Share of Restoration Cost: If other Non-Federal funds are provided from outside sources they may be credited to the landowner contribution. Landowners are required to contribute 25% of the restoration costs. Points are only assigned beginning with a 35% contribution by the landowner (10% above the minimum that is required).

Maximum score – 10 points

Other Criteria: These will not be considered without documentation.

Endangered Species covers all the Species of Special Concern, whether federal or state. Enrollees who will allow public access to be written into the agreement will receive a higher priority.

Signatures: Both NRCS and a representative of the FWS must be present on-site to complete this form. The District Conservationist must sign for NRCS.